

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL: WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

1. SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS ASKED TO JOIN WITH THE
PRESIDENT, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL TYLER AND RANKING
MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF ON DECEMBER 22 TO MEET
WITH A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION LED BY REPRESENTATIVE
CHARLES RANGEL OF NEW YORK FOR A DISCUSSION ON THE
MOUNTING PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE. IT WAS A FULL AND USEFUL
EXCHANGE CENTERING ON THE NEED FURTHER TO STRENGTHEN
EFFORTS TO CURTAIL THE ILLICIT FLOW OF NARCOTICS AND
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DANGEROUS DRUGS INTO THE UNITED STATES.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING, ON DECEMBER 26, THE PRESIDENT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS:

QUOTE. DRUG ABUSE IS A TRAGIC NATIONAL PROBLEM WHICH SAPS OUR NATION'S VITALITY. IT IS ALSO A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO OUR GROWING CRIME RATE. ALL OF US MUST REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO COMBAT THIS PROBLEM.

EARLIER THIS WEEK I MET WITH REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES B.

RANGEL AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE. THE CONGRESSMEN REPORTED THE GROWING AVAILABILITY AND USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUING FLOW OF DRUGS ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST BORDER FROM MEXICO AND THEIR CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT A POSSIBLE RESURGENCE OF HEROIN TRAFFIC FROM TURKEY.

AWARE OF THE WORSENING SITUATION, LAST SPRING I DIRECTED A HIGH PRIORITY REVIEW OF THE ENTIRE FEDERAL EFFORT IN DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION, AND INTERNATIONAL CONTROL. THE RESULTING WHITE PAPER ON DRUG ABUSE CONTAINED A FRANK ASSESSMENT OF WHERE WE ARE IN THESE EFFORTS, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE OUR RESPONSE TO THIS CRITICAL PROBLEM. I ENDORSE THE WHITE PAPER, AND THE BUDGET I WILL SUBMIT IN JANUARY WILL REQUEST SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT ALL OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

THIS ADMINISTRATION ALREADY HAS BEGUN TO TAKE STRONG ACTION TO DEAL WITH THE MOUNTING THREAT, HOWEVER. I HAVE SPOKEN WITH PRESIDENTS ECHEVERRIA OF MEXICO AND LOPEZ-MICHELSSEN OF COLOMBIA AND WITH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL OF TURKEY IN AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION OF OTHER NATIONS INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC. BECAUSE OF MY PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF MEXICAN HEROIN, I AM DIRECTING SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER TO EXPRESS TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT MY PERSONAL CONCERN THAT WE EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR

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IMPROVED CONTROL. I HAVE ALSO DIRECTED THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL'S DRUG ABUSE TASK FORCE TO PRESENT ME WITH SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING OUR ABILITY TO CONTROL DRUG TRAFFICKING ALONG THE SOUTHWEST BORDER.

I CALLED UPON THE CONGRESS TO ENACT MY PROPOSAL FOR MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS SO THOSE WHO ARE SPREADING THIS EVIL THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITIES

WILL BE PUT BEHIND BARS WHERE THEY BELONG. AND I URGE THE CONGRESS TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, SO WE CAN FULFILL OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO SEE THAT STRONG INTERNATIONAL CONTROL EXISTS FOR ALL DRUGS. IN THE WEEKS AHEAD I WILL SEND TO THE CONGRESS A COMPREHENSIVE MESSAGE ON DRUG ABUSE ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR A BROAD GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM. END QUOTE.

3. DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, THE SECRETARY ASSURED THE CONGRESSMEN OF HIS PERSONAL CONCERN WITH THE

DRUG PROBLEM. HE STATED HE FOUND EVIDENCE OF A WORSENING SITUATION TO BE SHOCKING AND COUNTED DRUGS AS A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT IN DETERMINING OUR NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IN EACH COUNTRY, THE FOLLOWING THREE FACTORS HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:

1) WHETHER THE COUNTRY HAS AN INTERNAL DRUG PROBLEM OR MERELY VIEWS DRUG ABUSE AS AN AMERICAN PROBLEM; 2) THE STATE OF OUR OVERALL RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRY; AND 3) THE BASIC STRENGTH AND CAPACITY OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. HE PLEDGED HIS WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS AND CALLED UPON THE CONGRESSMEN TO ALERT HIM TO ANY SPECIAL PROBLEM AREAS WHERE HE COULD ASSIST. ROBINSON

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